

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01813 260927Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T AMMAN 1813

EXDIS

JERUSALEM FOR ATHERTON DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, JO, UK, XF

SUBJECT: OWEN VISIT

REF: LONDON 03138

1. I HAD A FEW MINUTES TO TALK WITH UK FOREIGN SECRETARY
OWEN LAST EVENING DURING HIS VISIT HERE.

2. OWEN WONDERED ABOUT EFFICACY OF DECLARATION EXERCISE
AND SEEMED TO BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCCESS.
I POINTED OUT THAT SADAT, ISRAELIS AND HUSSEIN ALL SEEMED
TO WANT IT, BUT THAT AS FAR AS HUSSEIN JOINING NEGOTIATIONS
SOMETHING FURTHER MIGHT BE NEEDED. OWEN THOUGHT "HEADS
OF AGREEMENT" POINTING UP SUBJECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND
ORDER OF THIER CONSIDERATION MIGHT HELP. I SAID ON WEST
BANK AND PALESTINIANS WE WERE THINKING OF AMPLIFYING DECLARATION
ALONG LINES OF AGENDA ITEM B, "GUIDELINES FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON
WEST BANK AND GAZA."

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SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 01813 260927Z

3. I ASKED ABOUT TALK WITH HUSSEIN IN LONDON AND
OWEN AGREED THAT HUSSEIN WAS BLEAK, BUT SOMEWHAT
LESS SO THAN APPARENTLY HE WAS WHEN I LAST SAW HIM
HERE. DINNER WITH UK PM HAD BEEN GOOD, LIMITED TO
THREE ON THREE AND DEVOTED TO WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION.
THERE HAD BEEN TIME TO DRAW OUT HUSSEIN. KING HAD
ON HIS OWN RAISED QUESTION OF "RECIPROCITY." OWEN

SAID HIS EXPERTS HAD BEEN INCLINED TO DISMISS THE POINT SINCE CROWN PRINCE HASSAN HAD FIRST RAISED IT WITH THEM. I SAID THAT WAS A MISTAKE, HUSSEIN HAD DISCUSSED IT AS EARLY AS 1974-1975. MY OWN FEELING WAS THAT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT CONCEPT. RECIPROCITY MIGHT NOT HELP IF ONLY TERRITORIAL EXCHANGE (IN SCOPE OF "MINOR BORDER RECTIFICATIONS") INVOLVED, BUT HUSSEIN SEEMED ALSO TO ACCEPT IDEA THAT IT COULD INVOLVE CONCESSION FOR CONCESSION, NOT STRICTLY LIMITED TO TERRITORY, I.E., MEDITERRANEAN PORT RIGHTS IN ISRAEL FOR JORDAN/WEST BANK IN EXCHANGE FOR BORDER RECTIFICATIONS. OWEN SAID HE THOUGHT CONCEPT USEFUL AND WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE USEFUL TO SPEAK ABOUT IT A BIT IN PUBLIC.

4. HE TOLD ME THAT IN OFF-THE-RECORD TALK HE HAD TOLD NEWLY-FORMED JORDAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (A PICKED GROUP OF JORDAN'S MOST INFLUENTIAL) THAT THEY SHOULD FACE UP TO HARD REALITIES--"JERUSALEM IS NOT LIKELY EVER TO BE GIVEN UP BY ISRAELIS." HE ASKED IF I AGREED. I SAID NO, THAT JERUSALEM WAS UNDENIABLY TOUGH AND THAT IT COULD PROBABLY ONLY BE LOOKED AT IN LAST STAGE OF NEGOTIATION, BUT THAT ARABS TACTICALLY COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT FACE UP TO THE ABANDONMENT OF JERUSALEM AND A SOLUTION FOR IT. LATER MININFO ABU ODEH SAID THAT OWEN HAD BEEN TOUGH ON THE POINT, BUT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 01813 260927Z

THEN HAD BACKED OFF A BIT. LATTER ALSO REMARKED THAT HE WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED AT ARAB "RESISITANCE AND STEAD-FASTNESS" STATES' ATTITUDES WHICH THREATENED TO BLOCK PROGRES WITH SADAT INITIATIVE JUST AT THE TIME WHEN U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS BEGINNING TO SPEAK OUT AND U.S. PUBLIC BEGINNING TO SHIFT ITS VIEWS. I TOOK ABU ODEH TO TASK A BIT FOR HIS GLOOMY "GUARDIAN" INTERVIEW OF LAST WEEK.

5. FOR ATHERTON - MICHAEL WEIR SAYS HE IS STILL LOOKING FORWARD TO MANDAY BREADFAST IN JERUSALEM(?) AND HOPES YOUR SCHEDULE WILL STILL PERMIT THIS.
PICKERING

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